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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

March 8, 1990

Mr. John Vanderpool
Chief Geologist
Umetco Minerals
P. O. Box 767
Nucla, Colorado 81424

Dear Mr. Vanderpool:

Re: Exploration Drill Hole Plugging Variance, M/037/012, M/037/026, M/037/027, S/037/054, S/037/062, E/037/000, Umetco Minerals, San Juan County, Utah

You have requested that the Division grant a variance to Umetco Minerals regarding exploration drill hole plugging. Umetco has proposed, and has successfully plugged such holes in the past by installing a 4-5 foot concrete plug to within 2 feet of the ground surface. The remainder of the hole is then filled with soil. You indicated that submerging the top of the concrete in this fashion prevents future extrusion above the ground, or interference with future farm or reclamation activities.

The Division feels that Umetco's plugging methodology is acceptable and meets the intent of rule R613-002-108 (Hole Plugging Requirements). The Division will grant this variance regarding Umetco's hole plugging activities in southeast Utah.

Sincerely,

Holland Shepherd
Permit Lead

jb
cc: Bill Stringer, Moab District, BLM
WMN/1